

2022 -- S 2533

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LC005174  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- TRESPASS AND VANDALISM

Introduced By: Senators Ciccone, Lombardo, and F Lombardi

Date Introduced: March 01, 2022

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-44-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-44 entitled "Trespass and  
2 Vandalism" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-44-1. Vandalism -- Obstruction of lawful pursuits.**

4 (a) Every person who shall willfully and maliciously or mischievously injure or deface or  
5 destroy or write upon, paint, or otherwise deface the property of another, or obstruct the use of the  
6 property of another, or obstruct another in the prosecution of his or her lawful business or pursuits,  
7 in any manner, the punishment of which is not specifically provided for by statute, shall be guilty  
8 of a petty misdemeanor and shall be fined not exceeding ~~one thousand dollars (\$1,000)~~ five hundred  
9 dollars (\$500) and/or be imprisoned ~~not exceeding one year~~ one month, and shall be liable to make  
10 restitution for the injury or damage caused. Every person convicted of a first offense under this  
11 section shall be required to perform up to ~~one hundred (100) hours~~ one weekend of public  
12 community restitution work, and for a second or subsequent conviction shall be required to perform  
13 up to ~~two hundred (200) hours~~ two (2) weekends of public community restitution work. A weekend  
14 of public community service shall be interpreted to mean from Friday at six o'clock (6:00) p.m.  
15 through Sunday at six o'clock (6:00) p.m. Provided, further that every person who shall willfully  
16 and maliciously or mischievously injure or destroy or write upon, paint or otherwise deface  
17 government property, or obstruct the use of that property, shall be punished in accordance with this  
18 statute. Jurisdiction for matters involving government property shall be concurrent with the district  
19 court or the respective city or town police or municipal court.

1           (b) Where the provisions of The Domestic Violence Prevention Act, chapter 29 of title 12,  
2 are applicable, the penalties for violation of this section shall also include the penalties as provided  
3 in § 12-29-5.

4           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- TRESPASS AND VANDALISM

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1           This act would make vandalism punishable as a petty misdemeanor with penalties of a five  
2 hundred dollar (\$500) fine and imprisonment of up to one month along with community service  
3 requirements.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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